

1 1. A method comprising:
 2 accessing a configuration space on a platform
 3 integrated component;
 4 detecting a component external to said platform,
 5 said component intended to operate with said integrated
 6 component;
 7 comparing an identifier for said external
 8 component with an identifier for said integrated component;
 9 and
 10 if said identifiers match, writing information
 11 into the configuration spaces of the integrated and
 12 external components.

1 2. The method of claim 1 including accessing said
 2 external component through a bus.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein accessing a
 2 configuration space includes accessing a configuration
 3 space on a controller.

1 4. The method of claim 3 including detecting a
 2 component external to said platform from said controller.

1 5. The method of claim 1 including accessing a
 2 configuration space on said component external to said
 3 platform.

1 6. The method of claim 5 including accessing a
2 global unique identifier from said configuration space on
3 said platform integrated component.

1 7. The method of claim 6 including accessing a
2 global unique identifier from said configuration space on
3 said component external to said platform.

1 8. The method of claim 1 including implementing a
2 capability requiring two functions, one of said functions
3 implemented by said platform integrated component and the
4 other of said functions implemented by said component
5 external to said platform.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein writing information
2 includes writing information necessary for the platform
3 integrated component to communicate with said component
4 external to said platform.

1 10. The method of claim 1 including providing a first
2 function through said platform integrated component and
3 providing a second function through said component external
4 to said platform and utilizing said functions to implement
5 a wireless network capability.

1 11. An article comprising a medium storing
2 instructions that enable a processor-based system to:
3 access a configuration space on a platform
4 integrated component;
5 detect a component external to said platform,
6 said component intended to operate with said integrated
7 component;
8 compare an identifier for said external component
9 with an identifier for said integrated component; and
10 if said identifiers match, write information into
11 the configuration spaces of the integrated and external
12 components.

1 12. The article of claim 11 wherein said medium
2 stores instructions that enable a processor-based system to
3 access said external component through a bus.

1 13. The article of claim 11 wherein said medium
2 stores instructions that enable a processor-based system to
3 access a configuration space on a controller.

1 14. The article of claim 13 wherein said medium
2 stores instructions that enable a processor-based system to
3 detect a component external to said platform from said
4 controller.

1 15. The article of claim 11 wherein said medium
2 stores instructions that enable a processor-based system to
3 access a configuration space on said component external to
4 said platform.

1 16. The article claim 15 wherein said medium stores
2 instructions that enable a processor-based system to access
3 a global unique identifier from said configuration space on
4 said platform integrated component.

1 17. The article of claim 16 wherein said medium
2 stores instructions that enable a processor-based system to
3 access a global unique identifier from said configuration
4 space on said component external to said platform.

1 18. The article of claim 11 wherein said medium
2 stores instructions that enable a processor-based system to
3 implement a capability requiring two functions, one of said
4 functions implemented by said platform integrated component
5 and the other of said functions implemented by said
6 component external to said platform.

1 19. The article of claim 11 wherein said medium
2 stores instructions that enable a processor-based system to
3 write information necessary for the platform integrated

4 component to communicate with said component external to
5 said platform.

1 20. The article of claim 11 wherein said medium
2 stores instructions that enable a processor-based system to
3 provide a first function through said platform integrated
4 component, provide a second function through said component
5 external to said platform and utilize said functions to
6 implement a wireless network capability.

1 21. A system comprising:
2 a processor;
3 a bus coupled to said processor;
4 a device coupled to said bus, said device
5 including a controller having a configuration space; and
6 a mating manager to coordinate the implementation
7 of a capability incorporated in part in said controller and
8 in part in a component external to said system.

1 22. The system of claim 21 wherein the mating manager
2 accesses a configuration space on said controller, detects
3 a component external to said system having a configuration
4 space, compares an identifier from said external component
5 with an identifier from said configuration space and, if
6 said identifiers match, writes information into the

7 configuration spaces of said controller and said external
8 component.

1 23. The system of claim 21 wherein said device
2 implements a network adapter.

1 24. The system of claim 23 wherein said controller
2 implements the medium access control and said component
3 external to said system implements a physical layer.

1 25. The system of claim 22 wherein said component
2 external to said system is coupled to said system through
3 said bus.

1 26. The system of claim 22 wherein said configuration
2 space in said controller includes a global unique
3 identifier and said configuration space on said external
4 component includes a global unique identifier.

1 27. The system of claim 26 wherein said mating
2 manager compares said global unique identifiers.